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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 23 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to convey to you the text of a statement by the Government of Portugal on the arrest of Mr. Xanana Gusmão, leader of the East Timorese resistance (see annex).

I would be grateful if you kindly arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18 and 97, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pedro CATARINO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

Annex

Statement issued by the Government of Portugal on 20 November 1992 on the arrest of Mr. Xanana Gusmão, leader of the East Timorese resistance

According to reports that have just been received, the Indonesian authorities, which are illegally occupying the territory of East Timor, have this morning in Dili captured the leader of the Timorese resistance, Mr. Xanana Gusmão.

Mr. Xanana Gusmão has symbolized, through his courage and tenacity revealed in the carrying out of a struggle involving great risks and in adverse circumstances, the determination with which the people of East Timor have opposed the brutal Indonesian occupation.

The Government of Portugal appeals to the international community for it to act, without delay, to achieve the freedom and insure the physical integrity of Mr. Xanana Gusmão and guarantee that his rights as a human being are completely respected by the authorities of Indonesia.

Portugal reaffirms its determination to continue its actions in defence of the rights and liberties of the people of East Timor, including that of being permitted to choose freely their political future, a right which they have been denied and without which it will not be possible to bring to an end the intolerable situation which prevails in the territory.